



Volume 25

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

August 2016

Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ

HRO Swap Meet / Minihamfest 2.0

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

After the late spring rain spoiled the HRO Swap Meet in May of this year the wonderful folks over at HRO decided to plan a bigger and better replacement event for mid summer.

August 6th was the chosen day for the what it's creators called. The Summer Ham-Boree Well before starting time there was a line of sellers waiting to get in and get set up and sell or trade their wares. There appeared to be a nearly full complement of sellers and plenty of buyers. There wasn't any problem finding just about anything ham related, and the weather was great. Meanwhile while the parking lot was buzzing with activity, inside HRO there were company representatives, and drawings. HRO was packed, you would have thought they were giving away



ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



.radios for free. It was good to see so many people at this event, and many were relatively young. It seems amateur radio's population is getting younger.

I made several rounds though the Swap Meet section, I had no problem finding gear to spend money on. I was impressed by the quality of the items being sold. Sometimes you go to a Swap Meet and all there is is dirty junk, well not this Swap Meet everything looked really good. As it was I came home with two power supplies, two 2-meter radios, a 3 element Yagi, and two sets of test leads for my DMM. I spent slightly over half the money I brought with me. As I understand it, the inside festivities went very well. I couldn't stay, nearly three weeks of insomnia, won the battle between a pot of coffee, and two 24oz cups of 7/11's best, by 10:30 I was nodding off and had to leave for an afternoon nap.

It was great to see so much support for this event. I have been attending these since 2012 and at my second HRO Swap Meet I decided to join ARCEC the club had a booth at that event, I met some awfully nice people at that booth and decided to become a part of our club. If you have never been to one of these events, by all means come out to one, they are a lot of fun.



Young Ham Net Operates From The Beach

*By John Bousselet KK6VLO
edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ*

With the fourth week of the Young Ham Youth Net scheduled during our annual camping at South Carlsbad State Beach, I considered the technical obstacles and looked for how to get this job done. Several weeks prior to our trip, I ordered some aluminum arrow shafts intending to make my

own multi-element yagi antenna, and was casually scouting the hilltops near Carlsbad after work. After removing the archery pieces from the aluminum shaft, I realized I needed even more parts and was quickly running out of time, so I purchased an Arrow three element 2 meter antenna from HRO and did some quick testing at home. Receiving signals from Catalina Island was now an easy task, and simplex around the El Cajon valley could be done with 1W of power. I think I found a solution for our remote location.

Before the camper was setup on Sunday, I had the antenna clipped fifteen feet high on a wood rod and pointed roughly in the direction of Crest. A few quick tests with the Baofeng HT verified I was close enough, and at a distance of 44 miles it was necessary to use the 5W power setting. Daniel brought his larger Kenwood mobile and we could get a very solid signal into the repeater using 10W. 50W didn't make any improvements, and we also tried a ladder line j-pole antenna. When using the j-pole we could hear and reach the repeater, but it was more scratchy than the directional antenna.

We started camping on Sunday and the net would be four days later on Thursday. Between our busy beach schedules and the occasional use of the antenna, we guessed it would be ready to go when the time came. When we did the equipment check on Thursday, what I didn't expect was the massive accumulation of salt on the elements and inside the gamma match. I took the antenna down for inspection and saw puddles of water and large salt crystals sitting on the beam and around the connections. but corrosion had already started on the aluminum and it wasn't as clear as Sunday.

The difference in weather and time of day likely had some negative effect on our signal quality.

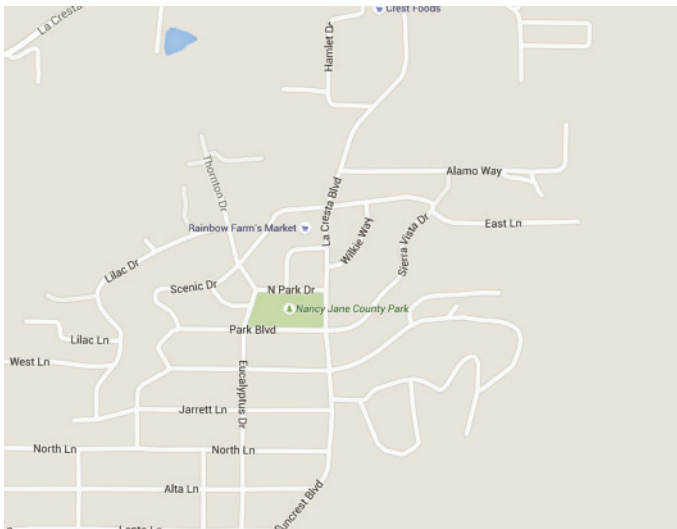
Daniel finished the net with one or two reports of bad signals, and I took a closer look at the antenna. Salt and water inside the gamma match would need to be cleaned properly when I got home, and a little steel wool on the aluminum elements removed the corrosion just fine. This arrow antenna is meant to be hand held and is disassembled easily for portable use. We plan on taking it to Mt Langley this fall, a 14,032 foot peak, and will try to get some SOTA points.



ARCEC Picnic

Saturday September 10th is the day for the annual Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Picnic. The setting will be the lovely community of Crest at Nancy Jane Park. Our pot luck picnic will begin around 10:00 AM, with fellowship, food and fun. Nancy Jane Park has a playground for the kids, clean restrooms and plenty of parking. Bring your favorite dish, desert or whatever Burgers, hot dogs with condiments, and drinks will be supplied by the club.

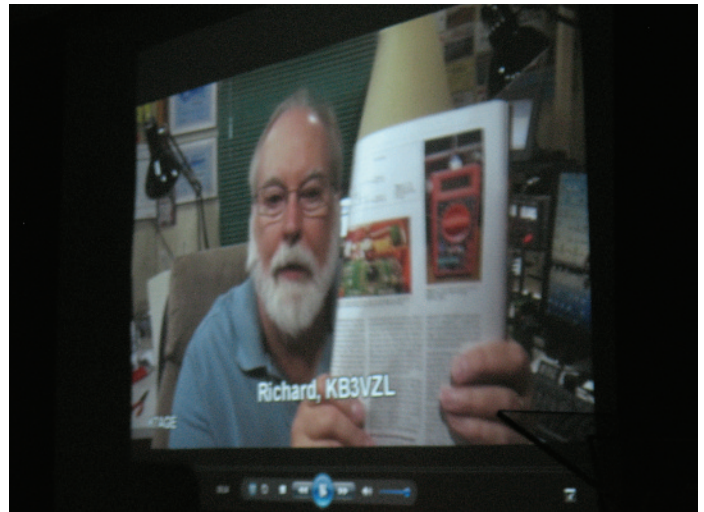
Come joins us, enjoy the cool mountain air. Crest is wonderful place to have a picnic and enjoy the company of our club members, good food, good conversation and fun will be had by all. Nancy Jane Park is located at; 120 N Park Dr, La Cresta Blvd. Is the main cross street. There is a gazebo in the south east corner of the park, we will be there, near the corner of La Cresta and Park, we hope to see you there.



August Meeting Highlights

Our August meeting presentation was on how to modify a Harbor Freight digital multi-meter to be used as a Field Strength meter. A video from YouTube was shown walking one through the process of building a diode detector circuit and installing it into the DMM. While the project looked easy, due to variations in parts and meters some challenges were encountered.

Club member were able to get hands on experience handling components, soldering and experiencing the issues with hand wired circuits. A number of more experienced club members were there to lend a hand in the building of this add on circuit, although it appears that due to time constraints nobody finished their project everyone who participated appeared to have a good time.



Next Month's Meeting

Building An Amateur Radio Car

Next month we see how one amateur radio operator has put together a great 160 to 440 MHZ mobile station with ARPS and more.



Swap Meet Listings

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has a Swap Meet listing page on our website and here in Counterpoise, Have something you want to buy, sell, or trade list it with us. See <http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html> for more listings and posting guidelines. This is a free service to our members.

Club Shirts & Jackets

We have club shirts and jackets available at meetings. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

Youth Net

A new net, Youth Ham net begins on Thursday night, July 21, 2016. This net is aimed toward young hams. The net will be on every Thursday (except Club Meeting Thursdays) from 7-8 PM on the El Cajon 2 meter repeater. If you are a young ham, or a new ham this net is for you.

New Resources

	New Battery Supply & Battery Recycling for SD
	New Marine Battery-Heavy Equipment Battery-Tuck/Auto
	619Battery.com
	Shop 619-448-5323 Mobile 619-315-5604 Call/Text
	1985 Friendship Dr B El Cajon 92020 Jeff Schwen

Recently Mark KB6PJU and Terry K6TRY had some tree trimming done by one of the local tree trimming services. As often happens the question regarding all that wire and stuff in the air came up. It was explained they are amateur radio operators. Another question came up in their conversation, that being can their bucket truck be used for hanging wire antennas and the like? Well it turns out this company will for a reasonable cost lend the services of their bucket truck for the purpose of minor antenna work. Mark and Terry thought it would be good to pass this information along. And there you have it another very useful service made available to us amateur radio operators. There is a cost involved, however I am told it is reasonable.

	Heilig's Tree Service Licensed - Bonded - Insured
	Ron Heilig Owner
	Ph. (619) 445-7113 Fax. (619) 441-9639

Membership Badges & Pins

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

Dell Awards
7949 Broadway
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 469-2100
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm
Sat 10am-1pm
Sun - Closed

Club Pins Now Available:

They have arrived! A limited number of club pins are now here and can be obtained from our Treasurer at most club functions. These are 1" diameter pins with a rubber clutch pin on rear. You can now show the world your support of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, and for the small cost of \$3.00 each too. Get them while they are available.



The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark KB6PJU has been conducting a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF repeater. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Fridays. If you want to learn Mores Code, hone your skills, and improve your speed the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group is for you.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;

<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>

Our Tower Trailer Needs A New Home

The current storage location for the club's antenna tower will not be available very soon. The club is looking for a volunteer willing to store the tower trailer. The new location must be secure, and 24 hour access is highly desired. If anyone wants to volunteer to store the trailer, or, has any suggestions on where to store the antenna trailer, please contact any officer or board member.



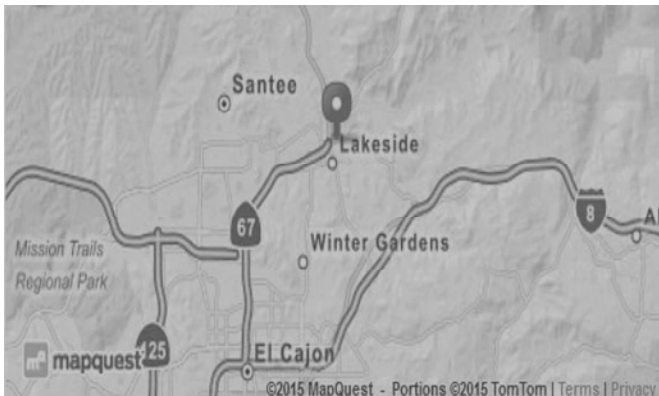


SAN DIEGO



HAMFEST 2016

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2016



SPONSORED BY: LAKESIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
VISIT US AT: WWW.LAKESIDEARC.ORG

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Facebook!**



Time: 7AM-3PM

6AM "Old Radio Trade Show"

Old Radio Trade Show In

Ham Fest Cost:

\$5.00

"\$5.00 To Show"

Location:

Lakeside Rodeo Grounds

12584 Maplevue St. Lakeside

You are cordially invited to attend the

2nd Annual San Diego Hamfest 2016. We

plan on starting out the day with a Old

So come on out and let's Ham it Up!

**For the most up to date
information**



The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**^{Inc.}
WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: ___ / ___ / ___

Amount Paid: \$ _____ Cash Check Check # _____

Membership Type: Individual (\$20/year) Family* (\$35/year)

Membership Status: New Renewal Returning Member

Call Sign First Name _____ Last Name _____

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member: Yes No

License Class: Technician General Extra Other

Email Address (required) _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

**Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

Submitting this form:

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at www.wa6bgs.us which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.